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ABSTRACT

Participants, at a conference convened by the Division of Family and Youth Services in Alaska on November 7th and 8th, 1991, began the development of a framework for a statewide plan for runaway and homeless youth. With the assistance of Division staff and the Northwest Network of Runaway and Youth Services, over 100 professionals and citizens from around the state developed the framework for such a plan. Two similar conferences were convened December 10th and 12th, 1991, with 26 and 16 participants who continued to develop strategies to reach the desired outcomes. Many aspects of the statewide plan were completed at the conferences. The conferences examined these topics: (1) primary reasons that youth runaway from home; (2) where youth run; (3) behaviors and problems of runaway youth; (4) estimated numbers of runaway youth; (5) desired outcomes for runaway youth; (6) behaviors and problems of homeless youth; (7) strategies for dealing with the problem of runaway youth; and (8) particular strategies for runaway youth in various locations in Alaska. (The appendix contains a list of conference participants; a description of the Northwest Network of Runaway and Youth Services' program model; and texts of the laws on runaways, runaway programs, and the Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse.) (ABL)

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Children in Crisis

A Report on Runaway and Homeless Youth in Alaska

January 1992

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Commissioner

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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES

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January 24, 1992

Dear Alaskans:

Each year the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) is mandated under AS 47.10.300 to report to the Legislature on the status of Homeless and Runaway Youth in Alaska. This year's report is bolstered by tremendous public participation at the grass roots level.

In reaction to public outcry from parents of runaways, social services professionals and public safety officials, DFYS in conjunction with Representative Randy Phillips (R) Eagle River convened a series of three community-centered conferences to explore the problem of runaway and homeless youth in Alaska.

What the participants found is astounding. Over 3,500 Alaska youth runaway from home each year. On any given day, an estimated 37 youths are on the run. And, an estimated 1820 youths are homeless each year.

The conferences also brought to light shortcomings in the social services system that should serve youth. Since DFYS is mandated to serve either neglected/abused children or delinquent youth, runaways and homeless kids are often underserved.

It is clear that the time has come for improved service to these lost, but not forgotten children and their families. Several communities have already taken ownership of the problem, developing 24-hour crisis networks and shelters. But before the problem of homeless and runaway youth in Alaska can be appropriately addressed, all communities, the Legislature and the Administration must climb on the wave of enthusiasm and take joint ownership of this grave dilemma.

We thank Representative Phillips, DFYS staff members, the consultants and, most of all, the people of the communities involved for their participation in this report. We are confident that together we can better serve the homeless and runaway youth of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Brian Saylor, PhD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner

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Executive Summary

The Division of Family & Youth Services (DFYS) convened a conference on November 7 & 8, 1991 in Palmer to discuss with citizens and consultants the growing runaway and homeless youth crisis in the state. In addition, DFYS held similar community meetings on the Kenai Peninsula and on Kodiak Island as they were not represented at the Palmer conference. Over 100 professionals and citizens from across the state who attended the conferences concluded that runaway and homeless youth are a serious problem in all parts of the state. They estimated that:

*** Over 3,500 Alaska youth runaway from home each year;

*** There are over 13,000 runaway incidents in the state each year; and

*** Over 1,800 Alaskan adolescents are homeless annually.

Most of these youth have no access to safe shelter, family reunification assistance, or programs to help them become productive adults. Consequently, they:

*** Run to city streets, out-of-state, friends homes or exploitive adults;

*** May find shelter in abandoned buildings, tents, or vehicles;

*** Cycle in and out of unstable living situations creating a lifestyle of chaos, insecurity and unrealistic expectations; and

*** May engage in prostitution, drug trafficking and property crimes to support themselves.

Conference participants concluded that additional services for runaway and homeless youth are needed in Alaska. Currently, DFYS programs are designed to meet the needs of either neglected and abused children, or delinquent youth. While some runaway and homeless youth fall into these two categories, most fall through a large gap in the social services system that fails to address their specific needs. Consequently, youth behaviors often escalate to the level of services they can access. In other words, youth must commit law violations or reach an observable level of abuse and neglect before the service system can respond.

Only Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks have programs designed specifically to meet the needs of Runaway and Homeless Youth. These programs are not adequate to meet the runaway and homeless need in the urban areas they serve. Aside from some local grass-roots efforts to house runaway and homeless youth, services in rural Alaska are seriously lacking.

Each region represented at the conferences identified several options for addressing the runaway and homeless youth problem in their areas.

*** Participants from the Matanuska-Susitna Valley have already begun work on establishing a 6 to 12 bed Safe Home shelter and a Host Home Network.

*** Anchorage representatives feel their area needs 40 more beds, perhaps half designated for younger teens (12-15) and half designated as supervised or unsupervised apartments. In addition, Anchorage seeks a 15 bed, short-term "cool down" shelter.

*** Participants from Southeast Alaska and Kodiak feel the need for a greater continuum of care, involving many agencies. They also expressed a need for a juvenile detoxification center.

*** All areas expressed some interest in establishing a 24-hour on call crisis intervention service, and development of better runaway prevention and follow up planning. All areas believe that in addition to federal and private funds, a third stream of funding is needed to address the problem.

*** Consultants recommend development of a strong state multi-agency network with a designated lead agency.

Other cities and boroughs in Alaska need additional representation from their communities to complete planning in their geographic areas. Meetings or other information gathering efforts should be initiated in these geographic areas to complete the identification of strategies to address the problem. In addition, conferees should solicit input from former and current teen runaways and homeless youth to involve their insight into the problem.

BACKGROUND

Intra-family conflict and disagreements between parents and their children are a regular part of our society. Many families are torn apart by child abuse and neglect, substance abuse and domestic violence. Changing family structures place more stresses on parents and children. Fewer and fewer children seem to be raised in stable, supportive two parent households.

A consequence of these pressures on families and children is the growing national problem of runaway and homeless youth who leave home due to family conflicts, violence and abuse. Based on the latest research, the National Network of Runaway and Youth Services estimates that each year 1 to 1.3 million youth runaway from their homes. Another 300,000 young people are homeless annually.

The problem of runaway and homeless youth is a growing crisis in Alaska as well. As this Conference Report will detail, there are over 13,000 runaway incidents in the state each year and over 1,800 youth annually are homeless. Some areas of the state have services to assist these vulnerable young people. Many areas of the state have few or no services. And in no area of the state are services even close to responding adequately to the growing number of runaway and homeless youth.

Alarmed by the number of runaway and homeless youth in their area, citizens and professionals in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley began to organize a community-wide effort to respond to this problem. In 1991 they delivered petitions signed by over 2,500 Alaska residents to the governor and the legislature. These petitions requested that action be taken to assist local communities in addressing the problem of runaway and homeless youth.

In response to these petitions, Representative Randy Phillips introduced legislation (H.B. 262) that in part would make running away from home and curfew violations a crime punishable by a fine up to $300 or up to 30 days in detention. Current Alaska statutes contain provisions allowing parents to file runaway reports on their children and permitting law enforcement officers to take runaway juveniles into custody for the purpose of assessment and referral to services. However, runaways can not be compelled to accept services or return home. Under current law, runaway juveniles in Alaska may not be placed in secure detention.

Alaska law has provisions for the licensing and operation of programs for runaway minors. Such programs do exist in the more urban areas of the state (Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks). These programs are funded primarily by federal grants. Other areas of the state must rely on Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) funded programs that are designed to serve abused and neglected children or criminal law violators.

DEFINITIONS

Alaska statute 47.10.390 defines a runaway minor as "a person under 18 years of age who:

(A) is habitually absent from home;
(B) refuses to accept available care;
(C) has no parent, guardian, custodian, or relative able or willing to provide care; or
(D) has been physically abandoned by
    (i) both parents;
    (ii) the surviving parent; or
    (iii) one parent if the other parent's rights and responsibilities have been terminated or voluntarily relinquished."

For the purposes of these conferences, the following nationally recognized definitions for runaway and homeless youth were used:

Runaway: Youth who leave home and return at a later date. If the objective of services is to return the youth to a home environment or group care, then the youth is a runaway.

Homeless: Youth who leave home and do not return or who periodically return to destructive home environments. If the objective of service is preparation for independent living then the youth is homeless. Homeless youth do not have any apparent legal means of financial support.

The combined definitions for runaway and homeless youth used by the conferences are functionally equivalent to the legal definition for runaway youth contained in Alaska statutes.

Conference participants described Runaway and Homeless youth as having one or in most cases more of the following characteristics:

*** Physically and sexually abused;

*** Abuse alcohol and drugs;

*** Abandoned or rejected by parents;

*** Truant, failing in school and having difficulty staying in school;

*** Unable to focus on future planning and independence;

*** Diagnosable emotional and mental health problems; and

*** Experience chronic health problems including sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and poor nutrition.

THE CONFERENCES

On November 7 and 8, 1991 the Division of Family and Youth Services convened a conference in Palmer to begin development of a statewide plan for runaway and homeless youth. With the assistance of Division staff and the Northwest Network of Runaway and Youth Services, over 100 professionals and citizens from around the state developed the framework for such a plan. Division of Family and Youth Services staff convened similar conferences on the Kenai Peninsula with 26 participants on December 10, 1991 and on Kodiak Island with 16 participants on December 12, 1991.

The conferences began with a discussion of the behaviors, characteristics and special problems of runaway and homeless youth. Participants then defined desirable outcomes for these youth. Finally, strategies to reach the desired outcomes were developed. When completed, these strategies will comprise a blueprint for how Alaska can address the problem of runaway and homeless youth.

Many aspects of the statewide plan were completed at the conferences. The strategy details for some areas of the state are yet to be finalized. The recommendations section at the end of this Conference Report suggest some ways to complete the plan.

POPULATION DESCRIPTION AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

Although participants split into working groups by geographic regions for the purpose of gathering information for this report, the population descriptions and desired outcomes developed by each group was virtually the same.

RUNAWAY YOUTH

Each group was ask to provide a descriptive list that would address each of the topics below:

Primary reasons that youth runaway from home:

* Physical and sexual abuse
* Family conflict:
  -lack of communication
  -poor or inconsistent parental discipline
  -emotional abuse
  -consistent undermining of youths self-esteem
* Poor supervision/absent parents
* Parental drug/alcohol abuse
* Youth drug/alcohol abuse
* Low self-esteem/fear of failure or consequences
* Peer influence
* Adolescent rebellion; want to be on their own

Conference participants consistently reported that youth running away from home were choosing this course of action out of a sense of desperation and confusion. Whether real or perceived, most runaway youth leave home because they are running <u>from</u> something and not <u>to</u> something or for excitement and adventure.

While most of the reasons for runaway incidents identified by the conference participants centered around the dynamics of various family problems, there was a great deal of concern and empathy for the parents of runaway youth. These professionals perceived that the parents of many of these youth <u>do</u> have the desire to keep their families intact and their children at home.

Where youth run:

* City streets, shelters, out-of-state
* Friends homes or apartments
* Extended family members
* Exploitative relationships
* Strangers
* Well meaning adults
* Abandoned buildings, tents, vehicles, boats, shipping vans
* Hotels/motels (often with other youth)

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Conference participants were especially concerned about youth who are "harbored" or find shelter with older adults or peers. In many instances these individuals provide food, shelter, illegal drugs and alcohol in exchange for sex, assistance selling drugs or involvement in other criminal activity.

In most communities safe shelter is available to youth only through programs funded by Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS). The only way a youth can access shelter through DFYS is to meet specific criteria that would constitute a "filing" by DFYS for protective services or to commit a criminal offense. Many runaway youth do not meet the criteria for these placements, and therefore are not eligible for DFYS funded shelter. Even without DFYS restrictions, there are not enough shelter beds to accommodate the number of runaway youth identified within these communities.

Behaviors and problems of runaway youth:

* Illegal activity to meet survival needs
  -prostitution
  -selling drugs
  -property crimes (including theft from parents homes)
* Depression/Suicidal ideation
* 20% have diagnosable mental health conditions
* Almost all use drugs and alcohol, large portion have drug and alcohol problems
* High likelihood of school failure/truancy (although those enrolled in strong alternative school programs may continue to attend school)
* Financial Problems/Panhandling
* Most will have emotional or psychological problems
* Poor anger control/assaultive behavior
* Low self esteem
* Promiscuity/Teen Pregnancy
* High risk for sexually transmitted diseases
* High risk victims of violence
* At least 40% are abuse victims
* Some may have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE), and/or various diagnosable learning disabilities.

Estimated numbers of runaway youth:

Conference participants were asked to estimate the number of youth in their area on the run each day, the number that runaway each year and also the number of incidents of runaway per year.

	ESTIMATE		
AREA	**YOUTH/DAY**	**INCIDENTS/YEAR**	**YOUTH/YEAR**
Matanuska-Susitna	3.2	1,200	600
Southeast Alaska	4.1	1,500	300
Greater Fairbanks	6.8	2,500	450
Bethel	1.0	450	150
Nome	.7	285	100
Barrow	.8	300	100
Anchorage	12.0	4,500	1,500
Kenai Peninsula	5.0	1,825	250
Kodiak	3.0	1,095	60
TOTALS	36.6	13,655	3,510

Other demographics:

AGE: Most areas reported the ages of runaway youth to be between 12-17 years of age. The average age was estimated to be 14.5 years, although the remote community of Bethel reported 13 years of age as did the community of Seward.

GENDER: Approximately the same number of males and females engage in runaway behavior in the Mat-Su, Kodiak and Anchorage areas. The areas of Juneau, Fairbanks, Bethel and Nome reported 55% were female and 45% were male. The Kenai Peninsula reported 66% female to 33% male while Barrow reported 70% female and 30% male.

RACE:

AREA	CAUCASIAN	NATIVE	OTHER
Matanuska-Susitna	80%	20%	0%
Anchorage	70%	20%	10%
Juneau	64%	33%	2%
Fairbanks	65%	20%	15%
Bethel	3%	95%	2%
Nome	10%	85%	5%
Barrow	4%	96%	1%
Kenai Peninsula	Not identified		
Kodiak	60%	30%	10%

Desired Outcomes:

To arrive at the following list of outcomes participants discussed how they would know that their responses to the problems of runaway youth had been successful; what would be different in their lives, their families and within their communities. Participants agreed communities should be more responsible for their youth and families by recognizing the problems of runaway youth and supporting programs that provide family orientated activities and treatment/counseling services.

* Safety and security (including safe housing)
* Return home/stay home
* Return to school; stay in school
* Better family communication skills/Family in recovery
* No substance abuse (youth and other family members)
* Improved self-esteem
* Cessation of abuse
* Responsible sexual behavior (includes fewer teen pregnancies)
* No criminal activity
* Adequate food, clothing, medical & mental health care
* Greater community responsibility for its youth
* Kids discover someone cares

* Supportive, loving, nurturing home environments
* Positive peer culture influence rather than negative
* Adequate life skills

HOMELESS YOUTH

Primary reasons youth leave home:

* Sexual and physical abuse
* Abandoned by parents
* Family can no longer economically support their children
* Thrown out/asked to leave
* Alcohol and drug abuse (youth and/or parent)
* Adolescent rebellion; want to be on their own
* Emotional abandonment/belief no one cares about them
* Family stress and emotional abuse
* Domestic violence.
* Youth refuses to follow the family rules & values
* Teen pregnancy

Homeless youth believe, for various reasons, that they cannot return home even if they have intact families. Some are not allowed to return home because they have unresolved conflicts with their parents. Many homeless youth are "grown up" runaways with a history of multiple runaway incidents, and formal and informal out-of-home placements. Most have in effect "been on their own" for months or even years. They are alienated, not only from their families, but from their communities as well.

Where homeless youth live:

Homeless youth find shelter the same way that runaway kids find shelter. The difference is that they frequently move from one living situation to another because no immediate or extended family resource is available or appropriate.

The progression from runaway to homeless often begins by the runaway moving from friend to friend until they wear out their "welcome." The runaway may then graduate to abandoned housing, city streets and finally to exploitive adults as more and more shelters options disappear. Eventually, it becomes apparent to them that they are not able to return home. They may be placed in out-of-home care by state agencies, but simply return to unstable, unsuitable living situations when released from placement.

The phenomena of cycling in and out of living situations becomes an act of survival and one which consumes most of their energy leaving little time for the pursuit of employment, education or training.

Behaviors and problems of homeless youth:

Many of these youth have the same problems and behaviors as runaway youth. Homeless youth have in addition:

* Emancipation issues
* Inadequate living skills, vocational skills or have not completed their high school education.
* Health care is only addressed on an emergency basis
  -they have chronic health problems
  -sexually transmitted diseases
  -lack of resources for dental care
* Distrust of adults
* Criminal activity:
  -property crimes
  -selling drugs
  -prostitution
* Teen pregnancy/Teen parenting
* Illiteracy
* Severe emotional problems:
  -anger
  -depression
  -suicidal ideation
  -self-mutilation
  -very low self-esteem
* Likely to have cyclical family histories of:
  -homelessness
  -poverty
* Escalation of alcohol and drug abuse and a higher rate of addiction.
* Street-wise
* System-wise
* History of out-of-home placements
* Inability to engage in realistic life planning, short term perspective, unrealistic expectations, and difficulty in making long term commitments.

Physical and sexual abuse, drug and alcohol use and emotional problems can be severe and chronic for homeless youth. Some have become "street-wise" and are adept at living in marginal and disenfranchised urban populations. Many have established a "street family" of other youth and adults who inhabit the street scene. Many have become "system-wise" from their years of cycling in and out of foster care and informal placements and understand how to manipulate the system minimally to meet their needs. They learn to avoid more punitive aspects of the social and criminal justice

systems, although some may commit crimes to receive needed services.

Because they are so consumed with meeting their day to day basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing they often develop very unrealistic expectations of themselves and their communities. To the drug and/or alcohol addicted youth, these basic needs are superseded in order to get the "next fix." They take a very short term perspective of their lives and are unable to engage in planning or making long term commitments in personal relationships and/or employment/educational endeavors.

Estimated numbers of homeless youth per year:

Matanuska-Susitna	300
Anchorage	1,000
Fairbanks	200
Barrow	10
Bethel	50
Nome	10
Kodiak	30
Kenai Peninsula	120
Southeast Alaska	100
TOTAL	1,820

Other demographics:

AGE: Approximately 90% of homeless youth are 16-21 years of age.

GENDER: Several areas reported that there were slightly more homeless males than females. Anchorage reported 70% males and 30% females. Homer and Kodiak, however reported 60% females to 40% males.

RACE: Approximately the same as for runaway youth with Anchorage reporting a slightly higher percentage of native youth (25%) and other ethnic groups (15%) and a lower percentage of caucasian youth (60%).

Desired Outcomes:

* Viable, safe housing
* Improved life and employment skills
* Job opportunities that pay a living wage
* Completion of high school education
* Reduction in criminal activity
* Reduction in alcohol/drug abuse
* Family reconciliation (probably without family reunification)
* Increased self-esteem
* Ability to plan for the future and make commitments
* Become responsible community members

Again, the conference participants sought to determine how they would know they had been successful in responding to the needs of homeless youth. The most desireable outcomes revolved around the provision of safe housing, attaining job/vocational skills, completion of high school education and getting/keeping a job. The groups generally felt that if these things could be attained, homeless youth would be less likely to engage in criminal activity, alcohol and drug abuse, and self destructive behaviors. The groups also expected that due to the support of services for homeless youth that they would feel better about themselves, and have greater opportunity for reconciling with their families even if they didn't return home. This would also result in more appropriate life planning and ultimately their becoming productive, responsible, contributing members of their communities.

STRATEGIES

Ultimately, participants believed that services needed to focus on strengthening the family. Program approaches that lead to greater reliance on government services to provide ongoing safety, security, guidance and nurturance for children are far too expensive and likely to fail.

For runaway youth this means family reunification and resolution of problems and conflicts that precipitated the runaway incident. Whenever possible, families should be given the opportunity to learn skills that will prevent conflicts from

escalating to runaway incidents.

For homeless youth the solutions are especially important to strengthen future families. Adolescent women who are homeless are very likely to become pregnant. Male homeless youth are not prepared to support a family and may have learned the patterns of domestic violence from their fathers. The only family they have known was most likely to have been unstable, abusive, violent and non-supportive. There is no reason to believe that these teenagers will be any different than their parents. Without intervention, the violence, abuse and dysfunction that they experienced in their families will be repeated in the families they create.

Currently only Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks receive state and federal funds for runaway and homeless youth programs. Private funding also supports Covenant House in Anchorage. Participants believed that additional services would be needed in all parts of the state to adequately meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth.

A summary of program models that have been effective in meeting the needs of runaway and homeless youth was presented at the conferences and is attached in the appendix. Strategies developed by conference participants for different regions of the state follow.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA VALLEY

Because the conference was held in Palmer, the Matanuska-Susitna area was represented by a substantial cross-section of professionals and citizens. Consequently, this region's strategies are the most complete and have the broadest support from the region.

Safe Home Shelter

The primary focus of the plan for the Mat-Su area is development of a 6 to 12 bed safe house shelter for runaways. The purpose of this program is to provide shelter, safety and food for youth who have left home.

The program will include a full-time family counselor who will develop plans to return youth home, to a relative's home or to some other safe long-term housing. Family reunification assistance will begin within 24 hours after a youth is admitted to the shelter. The average length of stay in the home is expected to be 72 hours and the maximum stay will be 14 days.

Awake shelter staff will be available on a 24 hour basis to provide crisis intervention, assessment and screening for youth brought to the house. It was felt that dependent, abused or neglected youth or those with criminal law violations were inappropriate for the safe house as other DFYS funded programs are available for these youth.

24 Hour On-Call

The Mat-Su area has an existing system of 24-hour on-call crisis capability. These systems are operated by law enforcement, DFYS, and Life Quest (a private community-based agency). Participants identified a need for greater communication and coordination among these agencies. The existing Children's Services Task Force will help clarify roles and responsibilities of agencies providing on-call crisis services. These agencies plus other agencies in the area (including schools) will be primary access points for the shelter. Runaway youth may also self-refer to the shelter.

Host Home Network

The second service priority for the Mat-su area is a host home network and family mediation services. Paid and volunteer families will be used to provide shelter for youth who can not be returned home within the 14 day maximum stay at the safe house. Family mediation services will supplement the work of the shelter's family counselor. Mediation will use trained volunteers to help resolve specific family conflicts and behavior problems. Funds will be needed for recruitment, training and support of host homes. Department of Health and Social Services can adopt standards for these homes. A part- or full-time staff person is needed to recruit, train and support family mediation volunteers.

After a system of services for runaways was operating, participants from the Mat-Su area believed that a group facility for homeless youth should be developed. This program should have a strong case management component.

ANCHORAGE

The second largest representation at the Mat-su conference was from Anchorage. Anchorage participants determined that the greatest priority service needs for runaway and homeless youth were strengthening 24-hour access to services, more efficient use (and possible re-organization) of their youth services team, developing a "cool down" short term shelter for runaways and adding approximately 40 more beds for homeless youth.

Anchorage has several points of access that are available 24-hours a day for runaway and homeless youth. However, it is not clear to law enforcement and agencies providing these services who has what type of service and how much of it is available. The group agreed that one agency should be identified to coordinate a 24 hour access system and determine a protocol for agencies to follow for access into the service system for runaway and homeless youth.

To accomplish this the group will propose restructuring of their current youth services team model, the Child Advocacy Network (CAN), so it may take on the coordination of some important resources for runaway and homeless youth. Those are:

* Update Agency Resource Manual for the area and the state.
* Establishing a coordinated case management referral system for difficult runaway clients and their families.
* Developing a written protocol/description of the service system and coordination of access to services for runaway youth.

The group thought that existing shelter at Covenant House and the Challenge program of Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation was not meeting the needs of some runaway youth (ie: some runaways will not use the shelters because of rules they consider too restrictive). Therefore, they will explore options for the development of a "cool down" short-term 15 bed shelter facility that will provide basic needs of shelter, food and clothing for youth that are not able to commit to moving from their transient life style, but are in need of safe secure shelter.

There was also consensus that approximately 40 new transitional living beds were needed to house homeless youth in Anchorage. It was felt that 20 of those beds were needed for younger homeless youth (12-15 years) and 20 for youth 16-19 years

of age. A mix of supervised and unsupervised apartment living and some self-governed group care will be developed to establish a "continuum" of options for homeless youth. This will insure that appropriate options exist for all homeless youth so each individuals specific needs will be met.

Other areas that were identified to be considered for further development were mediation training for school personnel and other social service workers, access to free or low cost dental care, more job/living skill training, more workers/volunteers to provide street outreach for substance abuse education and development of a Host Home model shelter program for younger less sophisticated runaway youth.

Anchorage was not widely represented at this meeting and review comments suggest there is a need to more thoroughly examine the identified needs and strategies at a follow up meeting which includes a broader base of participants.

JUNEAU, FAIRBANKS, NOME, BETHEL, AND BARROW

Representatives from Southeastern Alaska, the greater Fairbanks area, Nome, Bethel and Barrow also attended the Mat-su conference. These participants believed that follow-up planning should be done in their geographic regions to develop specific programs and priorities. Such an approach will utilize the expertise of experienced professionals and knowledgeable citizens in each region and create the broadest base of support for the plan. Regional planning should lead to:

- establishment of an interdisciplinary team that will oversee implementation of the plan and services to runaway and homeless youth (including protocols for service delivery);

- designation of a single point of access for services;

- a comprehensive continuum of care for runaway and homeless youth that includes the following services:

    * in-home services;
    * family mediation services;
    * medical care;
    * 24 hour crisis line;
    * 24 hour access to services;
    * food and safe shelter;
    * case management;
    * detox services;

* school trackers;
* alternative and vocational education;
* independent living preparation programs;
* substance abuse treatment (including in-patient treatment);
* peer helper programs (for parents and youth);
* recreation opportunities;
* mental health treatment; and,
* public education and advocacy.

Those present singled out in-home services, school trackers and juvenile detox as high priority services for runaway and homeless youth in their communities.

Participants also emphasized that resources made available on a statewide basis must be flexible to meet the disparate regional needs. They also believed that schools were a key part of the service package for runaway and homeless youth in more rural areas. Schools should work to keep runaway and homeless youth in school by reducing the number of suspensions and working more closely with parents.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Twenty-six representatives from Seward, Homer, Kenai and Soldotna attended a one day workshop in Soldotna on December 10, 1991 to address their region's runaway and homeless youth issues. These participants identified the following program/service areas:

* immediate, short term, safe shelter for both runaway and homeless youth
* adequate social workers to serve the area
* additional foster homes for temporary placement of runaway and homeless youth
* Expand human services in the area.
* The community of Seward expressed a need for bette networking between existing programs/services
* Third funding source for runaways

Homer has started a "Safe Harbor" non-profit organization under the umbrella of the Catholic Social Services in Anchorage to aid the homeless. "Helping our Teens" (H.O.T.) is the organizations first program. Its program goals are:

- assist with food bank programs
- locate temporary living quarters in area homes

- locate permanent, reasonable rentals
- assist with employment
- improve communications between teens and parents
- provide a crisis line.

"Safe Harbor" is working directly with legislators to investigate the liability issues and a "Good Samaritan" law. This group has identified a need for a short term (1 to 3 days with a maximum stay of 2 weeks) safe home model for homeless youth. They will be meeting with representatives from the Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center and Youth Corrections staff to determine the feasibility of cooperative utilization of existing resources.

Two other groups, the Kenai Interagency Team and the Social Service Task Force, will continue their meetings regarding runaway and homeless youth in their area, and will carry forward strategies identified at the conference.

KODIAK

A one day conference on runaway and homeless youth was held in Kodiak on December 12, 1991. Conference participants concluded that the following are needed in the Kodiak area:

* Community must "own" problem/ combination of city, borough and state responsibility
* Safe housing with a home type environment
  probably a "safe home" model which is citizen based
* Centralized resources
* Heightening of public awareness
* Funding
  - from whom
  - how much
  - consider pull tabs from local service organizations
  - consider a "Ronald McDonald House" model
* Change legislation
* Research liability issues and "Good Samaritan" law
* Vocational skills for runaway and especially homeless youth

The conference in Kodiak resulted in an acute awareness of the extent of the runaway and homeless youth population in their community. Participants agreed to discuss the runaway and homeless youth issue at the Child Abuse Task Force meeting in January 1992 to determine if the two should be combined or whether to establish a separate Runaway and Homeless Youth Task Force.

CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Follow-up Planning

Meetings or other information gathering efforts should be initiated in geographic areas outside the Mat-Su Valley to complete the recommended strategies section of this report. This will allow individuals who were not able to attend the conference to contribute their expertise and experience to each area's plan. The information contained in this report can be used as a starting point for these regional discussions.

Need for Services

It is clear that additional services for runaway and homeless youth are needed in the state. In most areas of the state inadequate services have allowed youth behaviors to escalate to the level of services they can access. Division of Family and Youth Services programs are the only services available in many communities. Consequently, youth must commit law violations or reach an observable level of abuse and neglect before the service system can respond. A more complete continuum of care is needed that provides for earlier intervention and more efficient safe shelter for runaway and homeless youth. In addition, programs specifically designed to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth are likely to elicit the voluntary cooperation of juveniles who now refuse services.

The use of detention to provide safe shelter for runaways is directly related to the lack of appropriate shelter programs in the community. Debate over the criminalization of runaway behavior should follow, not precede, creation of a separate state funding stream for services to runaway and homeless youth. Once adequate services are in place in all parts of the state the need for new laws can be considered.

Several conference participants commented that existing state juvenile detention facilities were full and that funding for some of these facilities may be in jeopardy. It makes little sense to make running away from home a crime if the state (as a vehicle for allowing runaways to be placed in secure detention) has no way of providing a useful sanction for violation of the law. In addition, youth will quickly learn that the law has no teeth and runaway behavior will continue unabated.

Prevention

Throughout the Mat-su conference, several participants noted the need to develop specific strategies to prevent runaway incidents and youth homelessness. While this planning was beyond the scope of the conference, it remains an important unaddressed need. In addition, stabilization of the existing runaway population will allow programs to begin focusing on services that will prevent future family problems and subsequent runaway behavior.

Continued Advocacy and Statewide Communication

The professionals and citizens who attended these conferences are building the nucleus of a strong state network on runaway and homeless youth. They will share information and program technology, and advocate for the needs of this vulnerable population. A strategy should be considered to develop and support this network. In particular, a lead agency or agencies should be identified to coordinate the network.

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APPENDIX

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NORTHWEST NETWORK OF RUNAWAY AND YOUTH SERVICES

PROGRAM MODEL INFORMATION FOR RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

Addressing the service needs of runaway and homeless youth requires planning and implementation of appropriate program models. Categories for general service areas that other communities have found to be important are:

***Crisis Intervention (24-hour access to services)*
***Temporary Shelter*
***Health Care*
***Follow-up Support For Families*
***Transitional Housing For Homeless Youth*
***Independent Living Skills Programs*
***Case Management*

The following is a summary of examples of program models for these service components. Program models for runaway and homeless youth are more short-term and time-bound, whereas, homeless youth need more focused long-term services

CRISIS INTERVENTION:

The purpose of crisis intervention services is to assess immediate service needs, provide 24 hour access to services and resolve the immediate crisis.

24-Hour Access Systems: ***This service is necessary for youth and families to have a point of access into the service system.***

***Coordinated On-Call System:* One agency takes the lead to coordinate 24-hour access to the community's system of available services. All agencies are involved in system planning and share on-call activities. Some programs have staff carry electronic beepers on a rotating basis to provide a responsive cost effective 24-hour access "on-call" system and response to crisis needs. (Works well for rural communities)

***Designated Awake Staff:* Programs where 24-hour awake staffing is available provide 24-hour access to services. (Works well in urban areas where residential facilities are available)

***Crisis Hot-line service:* Some communities have existing crisis hotlines that provide services to the entire community. Calls by runaway youth and their families can be referred to an on-call network of professionals and volunteers.

Counseling:

***On-call response team* or individual to provide initial assessment and crisis counseling.

****Outreach services* in schools.

****Drop-in center* or "store front" programs.

TEMPORARY SHELTER:

Some runaway and homeless youth will need at least short term shelter until their situation has been assessed to determine an individual service plan. The program design needs to be short-term (less than 2 weeks), non-secure, and provide 24-hour supervision.

******Host Homes:*** Families that are paid for their services or volunteer to provide temporary shelter in their homes. Requires specialized, intensive training and agency staff support for families.

******Basic Residential Shelter:*** 24-hour awake staff in a house or other group setting. *This provides a higher level of supervision.*

******Attendant Care:*** Trained individuals (contracted or employee status) that provide 24-hour supervision in family homes or another safe shelter such as a motel or the individuals home.

******Respite care:*** "Time-out" for youth and families prior to a runaway incident. Any of the above shelter models can provide this service.

HEALTH CARE:

Providing emergency or acute care for runaway and homeless youth.

******Formal agreements*** with hospitals, clinics and/or private medical professionals to donate or provide at reduced cost, emergency/acute care. Important for youth that are not considered to be under the purview of protective services or with medical card status.

******Agreements with and referral mechanisms*** to local government funded health department clinics and services.

******Planned Parenthood or other similar programs*** for sexually transmitted diseases and specialized testing.

******School based clinics*** funded through local school districts, government health departments, etc.

FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES:

Providing family counseling, mediation, parent training and support, alternative education, drug and alcohol treatment, to assist in resolving conflict that led to the runaway incident. Services that are especially important are:

******On-going family or individual counseling*** for 3-6 months.

******Mediation*** - Focuses on immediate presenting problems and negotiating agreements for solutions to those problems.

******Big Brother/Big Sister Programs.***

******Peer Counseling*** for youth regarding drug and alcohol issues as well as basic counseling (school based and through local private providers)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH:

Providing housing for homeless youth for 6 - 18 mos. while they acquire skills necessary to become productive members of the community.

****Supervised apartments* - Youth live alone or with roommates in apartments with on-site staff that provide supervision and structure for clients. Subsidies are generally required for payment of rent.

****Unsupervised apartments/hotels* - programs provide "vouchers" or some type of subsidized housing for youth while they are involved in living skills programs. Supervision is provided through weekly visits from staff/case managers.

****Self-governing group homes* - Youth live in a group setting and are responsible for developing and maintaining the house rules with the assistance of on-site staff. Appropriate for older homeless/street youth that have been out of structured family environments for a long period of time.

****Host Homes* - Paid or volunteer families that provide long term housing for youth that cannot return home. This model works well for younger youth that have not been outside of a family environment for a long period of time.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAMS:

Providing a program model that teaches independent living skills through methods that are non-traditional and at the individual's learning level and pace. Components of independent living skills programs that are important are:

****Jobs skills training* - resume writing, interviewing skills, basic work skills, knowledge of employee rights and labor laws. Homeless youth may require staff support to maintain initial job placements.

****Living skills* - food preparation, basic health and hygiene, money/budget management, grocery shopping, nutrition, decision making, refusal skills, group process, etc.

****GED/High School Equivalency programs* outside traditional public school settings.

CASE MANAGEMENT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH:

Provides homeless youth with minimal supervision in developing a service plan to assist in them in accessing needed services. Staff providing case management services will provide referral to community services, advocacy and personal support to clients.

****Youth Services Team (YST) Case Management* - Development of a YST (consisting of community agencies that come in contact with youth) that has the capacity to hire case management staff to provide services to youth that are referred by the participating agencies.

****Program Case Management* - case management services are provided by program staff to youth that are enrolled, living in or participating in an established service, i.e. alternative education program, host home or residential program, etc.

ALASKA STATUTES

TITLE 47

ALASKA RUNAWAY LAW

Sec. 47.10.141. Runaway and missing minors. (a) Upon receiving a written, telephonic, or other request to locate a minor evading the minor's legal custodian or to locate a minor otherwise missing, a law enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to locate the minor and shall immediately complete a missing person's report containing information necessary for the identification of the minor. As soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after completing the report, the agency shall transmit the report for entry into the Alaska Public Safety Information Network and the National Crime Information Center computer system. The report shall also be submitted to the missing persons information clearinghouse under AS 18.65.620. As soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after the agency learns that the minor has been located, it shall request that the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation remove the information from the computer systems.

(b) A peace officer shall take into protective custody a minor described in (a) of this section if the minor is not otherwise subject to arrest or detention. The peace officer shall honor the minor's preference to (1) return the minor to the legal custodian if the legal custodian consents to the return; (2) take the minor to a nearby location agreed to by the minor and the legal custodian; or (3) take the minor to an office specified by the Department of Health and Social Services, a program for runaway minors licensed by the department under AS 47.10.310, or a facility or contract agency of the department. If an office specified by the department, a licensed program for runaway minors, or a facility or contract agency of the department does not exist in the community, the officer shall take the minor to another suitable location and promptly notify the department. A minor under protective custody may not be housed in a jail or other detention facility. Immediately upon taking a minor into protective custody, the officer shall advise the minor orally and in writing of the right to social services under AS 47.10.142(b), and, if known, the officer shall advise the legal custodian that the minor has been taken into protective custody.

(c) A minor may be taken into emergency protective custody by a peace officer and placed into temporary detention in a juvenile detention home in the local community if there has been an order issued by a court under a finding of probable cause that (1) the minor is a runaway in wilful violation of a valid court order issued under AS 47.10.080 or 47.10.142(f), (2) the minor's current situation poses a severe and imminent risk to the minor's life or safety, and (3) no reasonable placement alternative exists within the community. For

the purposes of this subsection, a risk may not be considered severe and imminent solely because of the general conditions for runaway minors in the community, but shall be assessed in view of the specific behavior and situation of the minor. A minor detained under this subsection shall be brought before a court on the day the minor is detained, or if that is not possible, within 24 hours after the detention for a hearing to determine the most appropriate placement in the best interests of the minor. A minor taken into emergency protective custody under this subsection may not be detained for more than 24 hours, except as provided under AS 47.10.140. Emergency protective custody may not include placement of a minor in a jail or secure facility other than a juvenile detention home, nor may an order for protective custody be enforced against a minor who is residing in a licensed program for runaway minors, as defined in AS 47.10.390.

(d) If, after investigation of a report of a missing minor, a law enforcement agency has reason to believe that the minor is involuntarily absent from the custody of a custodial parent or guardian, the department shall notify the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the disappearance and shall provide the bureau with a description of the minor. The description of the minor must include, if known, the minor's full name, date and place of birth, parent's names, and mother's maiden name. If the Department of Public Safety has reason to believe that the minor, whether born in this state or not, has been enrolled in a specific school or school district in the state, the department shall also notify the last known school or school district attended in the state by the missing minor of the disappearance. When a person who was listed as a missing minor is found, the Department of Public Safety shall notify the Bureau of Vital Statistics and any school or school district previously informed of the person's disappearance.

(e) In this section, "law enforcement agency" has the meaning given in AS 12.36.090. (§ 2 ch 42 SLA 1985; am § 3 ch 72 SLA 1988; am §§ 1, 2 ch 144 SLA 1988; am § 4 ch 202 SLA 1990)

Effect of amendments. — The first 1988 amendment inserted the next-to-last sentence in subsection (a).

The second 1988 amendment inserted "written, telephonic, or other" in the first sentence in subsection (a); in subsection (b), inserted "a licensed program for runaway minors" in the third sentence and, in the second sentence, deleted "either" following "reference to" near the beginning, added "if the legal custodian consents to the return" at the end of paragraph (1), inserted present paragraph (2), and redesignated former paragraph (2) as present paragraph (3) and inserted "a program for runaway minors licensed by the department under AS 47.10.310" therein; and added subsection (c).

The 1990 amendment added subsections (d) and (e).

ALASKA STATUTES

TITLE 47

ALASKA RUNAWAY PROGRAMS

Article 4. Programs for Runaway Minors.

Section		Section	
300.	Powers and duties of the department	330.	Notice to minor's legal custodian
310.	Licensing of programs for runaway minors	340.	Confidentiality of records
320.	Residence in runaway minor program facilities	350.	Immunity from liability
		360.	Municipal powers
		390.	Definitions

Sec. 47.10.280. Purpose of chapter. [Repealed, § 1 ch 152 SLA 1976. For current similar provisions, see AS 47.05.060.]

Sec. 47.10.300. Powers and duties of the department. The department shall

(1) review, inspect, and approve or disapprove for licensing proposed or established programs for runaway minors to ensure the health and safety of minors in the program;

(2) maintain a register of licensed programs for runaway minors;

(3) award grants for the establishment or operation of licensed programs for runaway minors;

(4) submit to the legislature and governor each January a report on programs for runaway minors in the state;

(5) adopt regulations for the administration of AS 47.10.300 — 47.10.390, including regulations providing for the coordination of services to be provided by licensed programs for runaway minors and by the department. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Collateral references. — 42 Am. Jur. 2d, Infants, §§ 14-17.
43 C.J.S., Infants, §§ 9, 10.

Sec. 47.10.310. Licensing of programs for runaway minors. (a) A person may not operate a program for runaway minors in the state without a license issued under this section. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a violation.

(b) The department may license a program for runaway minors under AS 47.10.300 — 47.10.390 only if the program

(1) is operated by a corporation organized under AS 10.20 or a municipality; and

(2) meets the requirements of (c) of this section.

(c) A program for runaway minors shall

(1) explain to a minor who seeks assistance from the program the legal rights and responsibilities of runaway minors and the services and assistance provided for runaway minors by the program and by the state or local municipality;

(2) attempt to determine why a minor in the program is a runaway;

(3) provide or help arrange for the provision of services necessary to promote the health and welfare of a minor in the program and, if appropriate, members of the minor's family; services may include, but are not limited to, the provision of food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and individual or family counseling;

(4) promptly inform the department of a minor in the program who claims to be the victim of child abuse or neglect, as defined in AS 47.17.290, or whom an employee of the program has cause to believe has been a victim of child abuse or neglect;

(5) be operated with the goal of reuniting runaway minors with their families, except in cases in which reunification is clearly contrary to the best interest of the minor; and

(6) maintain adequate staffing and accommodations to ensure physical security and to provide crisis services to minors residing in a facility operated by the program; residents under 18 years of age shall be segregated from residents who are 18 years of age or older.

(d) A program for runaway minors may provide services for the protection of the health and welfare of a person under 21 years of age who is in need of the services and who is without a place of shelter in which supervision and care of the person are available. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.320. Residence in runaway minor program facilities. A runaway minor may maintain residency for a period not exceeding 45 days at a facility operated as part of a licensed program for runaway minors. The minor may maintain residency without the consent of the person or agency having custody of the minor, except that if the court has ordered the minor committed to the custody of the department, written consent of the department is required. The residency may be extended for an additional period of 45 days with the written consent of the person or agency having custody of the minor. A minor may not maintain residency beyond the 90th day following admission to a licensed program for runaway minors without the written consent of the person or agency having custody of the minor and the written consent of the department. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.330. Notice to minor's legal custodian. (a) The director of a program for runaway minors shall make a good faith effort to notify a minor's legal custodian as soon as possible, but in no event more than 48 hours after the minor is admitted to the program, unless there are compelling circumstances that justify withholding notice. The notice must describe the minor's physical and emotional condition and the circumstances surrounding the minor's admission to the program.

(b) The director of a program for runaway minors shall promptly notify a minor's legal custodian if the minor is released from the program into the custody of a person other than the legal custodian or a person representing the legal custodian. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.340. Confidentiality of records. Records of a licensed program for runaway minors that identify a minor who has been admitted to or has sought assistance from the program are confidential and are not subject to inspection or copying under AS 09.25.110 — 09.25.120, unless

(1) after being informed of the minor's right to privacy, the minor consents in writing to the disclosure of the records;

(2) the records are relevant to an investigation or proceeding involving child abuse or neglect or a child in need of aid petition; or

(3) disclosure of the records is necessary to protect the life or health of the minor. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.350. Immunity from liability. (a) The officers, directors, and employees of a licensed program for runaway minors are not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or omission in admitting a minor to the program.

(b) This section does not preclude liability for civil damages as a result of recklessness or intentional misconduct. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.360. Municipal powers. Authority to establish and operate a licensed program for runaway minors is granted to municipalities that do not otherwise have that authority. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.390. Definitions. In AS 47.10.300 — 47-10.390

(1) "licensed program for runaway minors" means a residential or nonresidential program licensed by the department under AS 47.10.310;

(2) "runaway minor" means a person under 18 years of age who

(A) is habitually absent from home;

(B) refuses to accept available care;

(C) has no parent, guardian, custodian, or relative able or willing to provide care; or

(D) has been physically abandoned by

(i) both parents;

(ii) the surviving parent; or

(iii) one parent if the other parent's rights and responsibilities have been terminated under AS 25.23.180(c) or AS 47.10.080 or voluntarily relinquished. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

ALASKA STATUTES

TITLE 18

ALASKA MISSING PERSONS CLEARINGHOUSE

Article 7. Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse.

Section
600. Missing persons information clearinghouse
610. Duties of missing persons information clearinghouse
620. Duty of law enforcement agencies
630. Medical and dental records of missing persons
640. Reports upon finding a missing person
650. Civil penalty
660. Definition

Sec. 18.65.600. Missing persons information clearinghouse. There is in the Department of Public Safety the missing persons information clearinghouse. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.610. Duties of missing persons information clearinghouse. (a) The missing persons information clearinghouse is established as a central repository of information regarding missing persons.

(b) The clearinghouse shall

(1) establish within the state a system and appropriate procedures for communication of information regarding missing persons;

(2) collect, maintain, and disseminate accurate and complete information on missing persons for the purpose of identifying, locating, and returning them;

(3) provide for exchange of information on missing persons within the state;

(4) cooperate with private citizens, local law enforcement agencies, and other state and federal agencies in investigations concerning missing persons;

(5) provide training and assistance to law enforcement agencies to promote effective use of the clearinghouse. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.620. Duty of law enforcement agencies. In addition to the requirements of AS 47.10.141 regarding reports of missing minors, a local or state law enforcement agency shall submit to the clearinghouse all missing person reports received by the law enforcement agency that relate to a person who is not located within 48 hours after the first report concerning that person was filed. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.630. Medical and dental records of missing persons. (a) When a person files a report of a missing person with a law enforcement agency or with the clearinghouse, a form authorizing the release of medical and dental records to the law enforcement agency and to the clearinghouse shall be supplied to the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person. The family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person may complete the release form and deliver the release form to the physician or dentist of the missing person. The physician or dentist who receives a release form signed by the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person shall release to the law enforcement agency and the clearinghouse only that information that is necessary to identify the missing person.

(b) When the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of a missing person cannot be located or does not exist, a law enforcement agency may execute a written declaration stating that an active investigation is being conducted and that medical and dental records are required for the exclusive purpose of furthering the investigation. Notwithstanding AS 09.25.120 and AS 17.30.155, the declaration signed by a peace officer under this subsection is sufficient authority for the physician or dentist to release information necessary to aid in the identification of the missing person. The physician or dentist may only release that information that is necessary to identify the missing person.

(c) Medical and dental records obtained under this section shall be provided to the clearinghouse.

(d) When a missing person is found, the law enforcement agency and the clearinghouse shall destroy all records in their files obtained under this section. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.640. Reports upon finding a missing person. A person who has filed a missing person report with the clearinghouse or a law enforcement agency shall immediately notify the clearinghouse or the law enforcement agency when the location of the missing person is determined. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.650. Civil penalty. The commissioner of public safety, or a person designated by the commissioner of public safety, may file a civil complaint in the district court to enforce AS 18.65.640. A person who fails to comply with AS 18.65.640 is subject to a civil fine of not more than $1,000. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.660. Definition. In AS 18.65.600 — 18.65.660 "clearinghouse" means the missing persons information clearinghouse established in AS 18.65.600. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

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